

From: Jud Meaders
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/5/01 4:36pm
Subject: Proposed MSFT settlement

Dear Mr. James and the Antitrust Division:

I am writing to tell you how disappointed and angry I am @ what I know thus far of this proposed settlement. I agree with Rep. John Conyers, who accused you of making "inexplicable and irrational" concessions in the settlement talks. I also like his analogy: "This is like losing a game by forfeit when your team was ahead with the bases loaded and your best batter on deck."

Any third-grader knows that you don't appease a school yard bully. You stand up to him and hold him accountable for his behavior.

Everybody knows MSFT is a bully and an illegal monopolist (everybody, it would seem, except you and your division). In my opinion, you have failed miserably where MSFT is concerned. Taking breakup off the table as you did when you were in the catbird seat was inexplicable. Letting MSFT dictate the terms of the settlement was, too (MSFT was often quoted in the media saying what they would and would not do; since when do the guilty get to dictate the terms of their punishment?).

This great economy of ours is NOT dependent on MSFT. If you would only enforce the hand that the appellate court gave you, you would quickly see how innovative and deep the technology sector can be. Instead, you crumpled. MSFT will continue its stranglehold on the industry; the economy and the American consumer will continue to suffer.

You gave the case away to a company that has shown time and again that it cannot be trusted to do the right, fair and legal thing. This is the same company that was caught cheating in at least two of its in-court presentations during the trial.

I would also like to know why our government is THE largest MSFT customer; they're guilty, so why are they still on the approved vendor list? Are you aware of their track record on (lack of) security?

Please be assured I will make my opinions known to my senators and representatives. If what I have read so far is true, you have lost your credibility with me. This "settlement" stinks the place up.

Thank you for posting the proposed settlement on your website and for your time.

Sincerely, Jud Meaders